

Floodplain Investigation

Citizens Advisory Group Meeting

June 23, 2005



Why Sample the Floodplains?

- **2002 EPA Record of Decision**
- **Concerns related to possible exposure of residents and ecological receptors to PCB contamination in the floodplains would be further evaluated concurrent with the design phase of the project**

Objectives

- Look at the variability of PCB concentrations in selected locations within the floodplain
- Determine if additional characterization is warranted

Floodplain Investigation

- Up to 10 samples were taken at each location using a gardening sized trowel
- Locations were identified using GPS equipment
- Samples taken:
 - Surface (0-6")
 - Sub-surface (6-12") taken at the 2 locations nearest to the river



Floodplain Investigation Results

- 688 samples were taken
- 70.1% of the samples were below 1 ppm
- 19.2% were within 1-10 ppm
- 8.3% were between 10-50ppm
- 1.5% were between 50-100ppm
- 1% were greater than 100 ppm

Floodplain Investigation Results Cont'd

- **Approximately 50% of samples (S01,SS01) closest to the river were below 1ppm**
- **Approximately 70% of next sample point (S02, SS02 – about 25 feet from S01) were below 1 ppm**
- **Approximately 80% of sample point S04 (100 or more feet from river) were below 1 ppm**
- **Approximately 90% of sample points S05 and S06 (150 feet or more from river) were below 1 ppm**

Preliminary Conclusions

- PCBs found in depositional floodplain areas
- Higher concentrations were generally found in low lying heavily vegetated locations
- Higher concentrations found closer to the river (decreasing inland), as expected

Maps



Floodplain Investigation Next Steps

- **GE, with oversight from EPA, will evaluate areas above 10 ppm for further sampling this summer**
- **Strategy under development for addressing areas with levels under 10 ppm and areas not previously investigated**
- **Results will used to determine if cleanup is necessary**